

# **S<sup>T</sup>. JAMES'**

Bicentenary 2019-2024

**The Reverend Andrew Sempell**  
Rector

23 December 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

## **Christmas 2021**

Greetings as we approach the celebration of our Lord's incarnation.

2021 has been a challenging year with COVID restrictions and lockdowns and the constantly changing regulations! Nevertheless, we have arrived at that special moment when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the coming of God to dwell with humanity on earth. May this be a time of blessing for you, whatever your circumstances.

## **COVID Regulations**

In the light of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, St James' Church will operate by the following restrictions until further notice, including the reception of Communion in 'one kind'. We recommend that those attending worship or other church activities should:

- Be fully vaccinated;
- Stay at home if feeling unwell;
- Use either the QR code or registration log upon entering the building;
- Wear masks while in the church building and not remove them to sing;
- Keep appropriate social distancing where possible under the 2 sqm rule (i.e. sit at the green dots – 4 people per pew or closer if from the same household); and,
- Use hand-sanitiser regularly.

## **Christmas Service Schedule**

The following services are scheduled for Christmas:

Friday 24 December:            6:00pm – Christingle  
    10:30pm – Night Eucharist of the Nativity (livestreamed)

Saturday 25 December:        8:00am – Sung Eucharist of the Nativity  
    10:00am – Choral Eucharist of the Nativity (livestreamed)

Sunday 26 December:          8:00am – Holy Eucharist  
    10:00am – Sung Eucharist (livestreamed)

The pattern of two services (8:00am and 10:00am) on a Sunday morning will continue at least to the end of January.

## **Bicentenary Service – Thursday 6 January 2022 (Feast of the Epiphany)**

On Thursday 6 January 2022 at 10:00am we will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the first (unofficial) service held at St James' Church. The service will be Choral Mattins based on the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), which would have been used on that occasion. The Choir of St James' will lead the music.

The Guests of Honour will be Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson. The preacher will be The Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson, a former staff member at St James', and Bishop Richard Hurford OAM, a former Rector, will preside.

### **Orchestral Masses in January**

Two Orchestral Masses will be conducted in January on Sundays 23 and 30 January. On Sunday 30 January, we will premiere the orchestral version of *Mass of St James'* composed by Gabriel Jackson for our Bicentenary.

Almighty God,  
who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him,  
and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin:  
Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit;  
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit,  
ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

Every blessing,



The Reverend Andrew Sempell  
Rector of St James'